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AGRICULTURAL.

The center of the Eastern broom corn district is the Mohawk Valley, New York, where it is a great crop and fairly profitable, being worth \$50 a ton beside the seed. A ton of broom corn will make from 1,200 to 1,300 brooms.

A GRASS which endures cold and thrives especially well on land under irrigation is meadow foxtail, which is used for pasturage in connection with the other grasses, two to four pounds in the mixture.

If there is a chance to turn the water of some small stream upon a part of the pasture for a few days, now is the time to do it. Divide the water by means of dikes, so that the stream will be lost on the grass.

Do not change from winter feed to spring pasture too suddenly, nor turn cows out too early, or both pasture and cow will suffer. The sudden change, also, sometimes causes trouble with butter making.

Is setting out a new asparagus bed remember that big stalks come from setting out the plants farther apart than the old rules indicated. The biggest stalks come from the largest plants set apart and manured lavishly.

If weeds grow where they cannot be hoed out, as in the cracks of a board walk, or on the edges of a hard, gravel walk, they can be killed without disturbing the walk, by sowing on a lot of clover salt as soon as the weeds begin to start in the spring.

Rabbits may be hurried forward considerably by first sprouting the seed. Let it soak in water twenty-four hours, then put it in a bag and expose to the sun. The seed will start a little during the course of the day. Then sow it in the hot bed or garden. Frequent watering will hurry them forward; so will some good super-phosphate.

To subdue that great New England weed, called quack grass or witch grass, the department of agriculture recommends clean cultivation during the dry season and a heavy seeding of some annual crop such as crimson clover, peas, millet or oats, that will cover the ground thickly and keep down the weeds during the growing season.

A SEEDING down mixture recommended by the Rhode Island station is eight pounds timothy, six pounds red top, six pounds clover. Sow this mixture as early in April as possible. Here is another favorite New England mixture: ten pounds timothy, six pounds alsike, seven pounds of red top. Alsike is not so commonly given as the other clovers but it is very valuable, being especially adapted to damp ground. It bears heavy frost without injury.

Principles of Peach Culture.

J. H. Hale, who carries on immense orchards in Georgia and in Connecticut, lays down the following principles, which he calls the "ten commandments of the peach culture," and asserts that upon them hang "most of the law and all the profits."

High, dry, sandy, or sand-loam soil. Careful selection of varieties most hardy in fruit bud; vigorous, healthy seedling stocks, budded from bearing trees of undoubted purity and health.

Trees given entire possession of the land from the start.

Thorough culture from the opening of spring till the first or middle of August.

Liberal annual manuring, broadcast with commercial manures rich in potash and phosphoric acid and lacking in nitrogen.

Low heading and close annual pruning for the first five years.

Keep out most of the borers with some suitable wash and dig out all others.

Search for traces of yellows every week of the growing season, and at first sight pull up and burn every infested tree.

Thin the fruit so that there will never be what is termed a full crop.

Sometimes seeds for flowers and vegetables are prepared for the open ground by sowing them, at first, in little boxes made of paste-board, writing paper, or birch bark, folding the corners and sewing them with needle and thread, making them about three inches square.

Fill these with earth and sow the seed, thinning out to one or two plants in a box. When the plants are ready to set out cut the corners of the box and slit the bottom, and set the plant, box and all in the garden.

Making Milk Cheap.

An article which appeared in THE PLOUGHMAN some time ago called "From College to Farm," included the opinion expressed by Mr. Leigh Hunt that milk could be profitably produced at from two and one-half to three cents a quart. Several readers took exception to the statement, and with good reason; for upon the average New England farm under average conditions and with the many drawbacks and incidental expenses connected with the business, it is very hard to make a living at the prices paid by the contractors in the various cities for milk.

But to show what can be done under right conditions by the right man the experience is given below by L. Conine, Ulster County, N. Y.:

During the stable feeding season of 1893 and '94, I fed each of my milkers twelve pounds of hay, eight pounds corn fodder, ten pounds wheat bran, five pounds hominy, and three pounds cottonseed meal daily, at a cost of 26 1-2 cents. During the season of 1894-5, I fed twenty pounds of hay, six pounds oats and oat straw in sheaf, six pounds wheat bran, four pounds buckwheat feed and two pounds cottonseed meal daily, at a cost of twenty-one and a quarter cents. Taking the past eight years together, I find the annual cost of feeding each of twenty cows has been about \$52, including pasturage, and I find, too, that the cost has not increased since I began keeping Holsteins. I have fed and milked natives, Ayrshires and pure-bred Holsteins, side by side in my stables, without making any difference in their rations, except such slight ones as are always necessary in feeding any lot of milkers. The food cost of a quart of milk has varied from five and one-fourth cents a quart for all the milk from my poorest cow, to three-fourths of one cent a quart for the milk of my best cow; the first was a native, the last is a Holstein. The average food cost of each quart of milk from my Holsteins last year was 1.04 cents, while the cost of each quart of milk from the best pure-bred Holsteins was 1.85 cents.

A good deal depends upon the man, but the valuation recorded above of from five and one-fourth cents down to three-fourth cents shows that even more depends upon the cow.

Amount of Manure.

Concerning the amount of manure to be applied for ordinary field crops, it may be said that a definite answer cannot be given because the rate will depend upon the character of the soil, the quality of the manure and the nature of the crop. Cold, moist or leachy soil, should be manured lightly and often. In fact, for moist soils, it is better to apply small amounts often than large quantities occasionally. The ordinary rate in New England is from six to twelve tons per acre for staple crops, but the market gardeners and high farmers often apply twenty tons or more.

Wood Ashes.

The analysis of wood ashes would indicate that at market prices they are rather an expensive fertilizer. They vary considerably, but an honest lot of wood ashes would average about five per cent of potash, one and five tenths per cent of phosphoric acid, thirty-two per cent of lime. The potash and phosphoric acid would be worth only about \$6.50 per ton at regular prices. The lime is worth something but hardly enough to make the value of the ashes equal to the market price which is \$10 or \$12 a ton.

Home made ashes, however, are worth more than the above estimates, being much richer. The trouble with a great many lots of ashes found on the market is that they have been adulterated. They should be bought under strict guarantee.

Japanese Millet and Soy Bean Seed.

The Agricultural Department of the Hatch Experiment Station has for distribution to farmers of this state a small quantity of seeds of three varieties of Japanese millet and two of soy beans, as follows: Japanese barnyard millet, price forty cents per peck; common Japanese millet, less highly recommended than the barnyard millet, as it is rather coarse and woody but valuable for fodder if cut early or for seed, forty cents per peck; Japanese white panic millet, less highly recommended than the barnyard for fodder because coarse and weedy but yielding seed of large size, particularly valuable for poultry feeding, fifty cents per peck. Medium green soy beans, recommended for green fodder or for the silo, will ripen where Longfellow corn ripens, and when ground the meal is a valuable cattle food; price seventy-five cents per peck. Medium black soy bean. It may be used for the same purpose as the green but is less highly recommended; price seventy-five cents per peck.

The small quantity of these seeds available for distribution compels us to limit the amount of each of the varieties to one peck for a single farmer.

Wm. P. Brooks, Agriculturist,
Hatch Experiment Station.

Fighting Tree Lice.

Tree lice are hard to fight. If allowed to remain until they curl up the leaves it is almost impossible to spray them enough to do much good. The time to attack them is as soon as they begin to appear on the leaves about the middle of May. Then spray thoroughly and from beneath so as to get as much of the solution as possible on the under side of the leaf.

If the first spraying does not kill most of them it will need to be repeated. There are some insects which feed upon the lice and help in the warfare. It is difficult for those unused to the process to make a kerosene emulsion that will do the business without injury to the leaves. A simpler and often surer method is to make a strong soap of whale oil soap, one pound of soap to seven gallons of water. This soap can be bought at the agricultural supply stores. To the ends add some tobacco stems, the more tobacco the better. The preparation called "fir tree oil" is also good and convenient.

The early cabbage crop needs to be hurried along. Superphosphate is a splendid manure for this crop, and frequent hoeing is especially beneficial.



A FARM YARD SCENE.

The Corn Crop.

The season for the planting of corn is near at hand and, although perhaps I have no new ideas to offer, it is sometimes well to be reminded of what one already knows but has allowed to hide away in an unused corner of the mind. First and always I would emphasize the fact that land well plowed is half the crop, and by well plowed, I mean every sod turned over out of sight and no grass or yawning holes to be seen. It is rather slow work to stop every now and then to turn a refractory piece of turf into place, but it pays as well as any part of the work of preparation besides saving your back many an ache in hoeing time, and there is a deal of satisfaction in seeing the smooth, even furrows.

My preference is to manure the sod and turn it under. It depends upon the kind of soil. If the land is dry I do not think one gets the full value of stable manure if harrowed in. All the larger pieces dry up and the plant food is out of reach of the plant roots. It is impossible for me to harrow it all under, therefore I plow it under. After the plowing and manuring comes the harrowing, and it needs to be thoroughly done. I have never found anything equal to the disc harrow for pulverizing the soil. I overlap and therefore go twice over it and then cross harrow in the same way. Then I pick the stone as clean as possible. I saw a neighbor picking stone the other day so small that he picked them into a basket and carried them to his dump cart. I always manure broadcast liberally either before plowing or after, and then use about 400 pounds per acre of high grade corn fertilizer in the hill planting with a planter, and into the phosphate holder I put a liberal supply of pumpkin seeds. I plant three feet apart the rows—hills eighteen inches, about two kernels to the hill, and I plant northern yellow corn, although I use a silo and plant in this locality about the middle of May.

When the corn begins to break the ground I take a weeder or a fine tooth harrow and harrow the piece lengthwise of the rows. This upsets the tiny weed plants that are just sprouting and also loosens the earth about the corn hills. I keep this harrow going every few days until the corn is nearly a foot high or as long as I can harrow without breaking down the corn, and at the last harrowing I sow on grass seed. Now my work on that corn piece is practically done; until harvesting corn, pumpkins and grass have it all their own way and weeds are at a disadvantage, unless it be a few enterprising kale plants that come up between the hills and escaped the harrow.

After having I go through it and pull these and burn them to prevent their scattering seed. This corn usually ripens and the soundest of it is hauled while the stocks with poor corn, soft and imperfect ears is put in the silo.

And then the pumpkins; the field will be dotted thick with great full moons, some of which will weigh fifty or even sixty pounds. I tell you they make the cows laugh and they make the dairyman laugh when he looks in the milk pail, and the hens laugh and the pigs laugh and we all laugh when we eat the pumpkin pies. The nicest of the pumpkins are usually sold in the villages for family use. Frequently the

pumpkins have nearly paid for the whole crop.

I have planted corn with and without pumpkins and I had no better corn without them than with. Evidently the plant food required to raise corn is not the same as that required for pumpkins, and I intend there shall be enough for both. I cannot raise pumpkins any other way. The partial shade is just the right condition for them and I think it would be the same for squashes.

The ripe corn saves many dollars for feed for poultry, pigs, etc., and my cows do just as well on the ensilage as they do when all the corn is on it. I do not believe cows can digest whole corn, and if not digested it does them no good.

GREEN MOUNTAIN, N. H.

The Milk Situation.

Evidence is beginning to accumulate, that the milk contractors of Boston do not dare to leave matters in dispute between themselves and the New England Milk Producers' Union to the State Board of Arbitration. Promptly upon receipt of the letter from His Excellency, the Governor, that the Board of Arbitration would act in the matter, the New England Milk Producers' Union signified its willingness to go ahead, with a full knowledge of the fact that Mr. Walcott, the chairman of the State Board, was a brother of the Mr. Walcott in the firm of C. Brigham & Co. The contractors, judging from all appearances, do not care to have the matter arbitrated upon and are striving to find some means of backing down and out of the agreement which they signed. The contractors notified the Board of Arbitration that they would let them know when they would be willing to have a hearing in the matter, as soon as they got their association together. The members of the contractors' association could have been gotten together within an hour or two on any day, and the great delay in the hearing which is occasioned solely by the contractors shows very plainly that they have no faith in the strength of their assertion, that any fair minded body of men would decide that carrying as whole milk an amount equal to two and one-half per cent of the sales was all that they, the contractors, were justly entitled to bear of the surplus milk.

After having fairly agreed to sign, and having signed an agreement to arbitrate, the present position of the contractors is ludicrous in the extreme, and shows how little faith they have in their own statements, and also shows that if the farmers take a firm stand and stand together and support the officers of the Union that they can get more of what belongs to them than they have been able to get hitherto.

The officers of the Union have retained Col. W. S. B. Hopkins of Worcester to look out for their interests, and have laid a number of questions before him for his opinion which will be forthcoming in a day or two, and the officers of the Union will proceed to act thereon.

Several of the contractors have consented to allow the directors to look at such books as they have a mind to show them. Only one firm, however, consented to allow Secretary Bowker to look at their books.

A petition will shortly be brought to

the Railroad Commissioners asking for a hearing relative to fixing a rate per can from all stations from which members of the Union ship their milk, so that the members may not, by reason of excessive charges, be compelled, as they have been hitherto, to sell their milk to contractors in Boston if they desire to sell it at all in the Boston market. As it is necessary to name every station in the petition, it is hoped that the members of each section residing in the state will give the name of every station at which the members of their respective sections put on milk, and send them to the Secretary of the Union. As soon as this has been done the members of the sections outside of the state will be requested to send the names of the stations at which they put on milk so that a petition can be brought requesting the Interstate Commerce Commission to order the same or proportionate rates by the can for milk shipped into the Boston market from without the state. Every section and every member should act promptly in this matter as every day counts at the present time.

The officers of the Union intend to print and send to the members of the different sections the questions submitted to the counsel and the opinion thereon, and also an outline of the plan which it is intended to pursue.

The refusal of the contractors to agree with the New England Milk Producers' Union in regard to the amount of surplus that they should carry and their inclination to back down and out of any agreement which they have made (signed or unsigned) will probably result in the sale of the milk by members of the Union direct to the pedlars before the six months are out. As soon as an avenue is opened to the producers to ship their milk into Boston by the fixing of a rate per can by the Railroad Commission of Massachusetts, developments as to what will take place in the milk situation will prove interesting.

Notes on Spraying.

In these times of low prices, the question of whether to spray or not to spray has often been asked, says a bulletin of the Cornell Station. First-class and fancy fruit of all kinds will usually sell at a profit, while inferior grades are a drug on the market at any time. It is a fact of common observation that the finest fruit is that which has been sprayed. Not long ago, the writer was comparing two vineyards which were situated side by side and under similar conditions in practically every respect. One vineyard had been thoroughly sprayed and the fruit was perfect, selling at a profit, and the foliage was healthy. The other vineyard had been left unsprayed and scarcely a perfect cluster of fruit could be found and the vines were in as pitiable a condition as the fruit. Such a produce could not have sold for enough to pay for picking. This is only one of many instances which might be mentioned as an argument for careful spraying; and what is true of grapes is often true of other fruits. Again, it is some times happens that conditions are unfavorable for the development of bugs and fungi and, for a single year, there is very little difference between sprayed and unsprayed fruit. It should be remembered that the effect of spraying is not confined solely to the year in which it is done, but among those who have had abundant opportunities for observing, it is held that trees sprayed for a series of years and then left unsprayed for a season, are more vigorous and produce better fruit than trees which have not been sprayed at all.

The time of making the application varies with the conditions of the seasons but for orchard fruits, when treated against the more common insect and fungous foes, we may say in a general way, spray first, just before the fruit buds open; second, just after the blossoms fall; and third, ten days or so after the second spraying. In a dry season, the third application may not be necessary, while in an excessively rainy one more than three may pay.

When to spray cannot be regulated by rule. When not to spray, at least in one

particular, can be stated with emphasis. If the spraying solutions contain poisons, as they should at that season of the year, do not under any conditions spray when the trees are in bloom. Nothing is accomplished by spraying at this time which cannot be attained either before the blossoms open or after they fall. More than this, irreparable damage is almost sure to follow spraying at this time. Everyone has observed how active the bees are among the blossoms of fruit trees, and on this activity of the bees depends very largely the development of the fruit. As they carry pollen from one blossom to another, they are doing a kindness to the fruit-grower which he little appreciates. If, then, these friends of the orchardist find the blossoms covered with poison, as they will do if the trees are sprayed when in bloom, their death from the effects of the poison is only too sure to follow and with the death of each bee the fruit grower loses a friend. This loss is not only to the man who grows fruit, but to the bee-keeper as well. It is also a question if the spray may not injure flowers when they are in full bloom.

The man who sprays or directs the work must think for himself. The various spraying materials can be made by rule, but when it comes to applying them, it is a different matter; general directions may be given, but these must be adapted to each case. A man who has regard for the health of the trees becomes to that extent a doctor; let him take the same care in diagnosing the ailments of his trees, which the physician takes when called to see a patient.

To recapitulate it may be said that many of the recently introduced insecticides and fungicides are no better than some of the older and better known materials, and they are sometimes inferior to them.

Arsenite of lime prepared according to the directions of Dr. Kedzie seems to be the best substitute for Paris green. Powdered Bordeaux mixture has not given good satisfaction at the Cornell Station.

Certain modifications of Bordeaux as proposed by Halstead may possess some advantages over the common formula for special purposes.

In spraying for insect foes, the kind of material used must be governed by the feeding habits of insects for which the treatment is made.

Bordeaux mixture seems to lessen the ravages of the striped cucumber beetle, as also the flea beetle.

Thoroughness in spraying is one of the most important elements of success and one often disregarded.

Spray at the proper time. Under no conditions spray with poisons when fruit trees are in full bloom.

Varieties of Pears.

Among the pear growers in the Eastern part of Massachusetts no pear has lately been growing more rapidly into favor than the Bosc. It is a handsome late sort, russet colored and very fine flavored. Many growers who have had trouble with the Anjou by blight and spot, have regretted their Anjous with the Bosc.

Time was when the Anjou was most profitable of them all, and so it is now where disease has not attacked it.

The Bartlett is probably still more largely planted than any other in New England. It is a standard sort like the Concord among grapes, but of late years it has proved less profitable than formerly on account of the competition of Bartletts from California. The New England Bartlett, however, is of better flavor, and, if kept in storage until the bulk of the California pears are out of the way will bring a good price.

Of the medium fall varieties, the Seckel and Sheldon remain the most popular.

Winter kinds which ripen later than the Bosc and Anjou are the Lawrence, Winter Nellis, Vicar of Wakefield, all productive and profitable. A New England grower will be safe in making his selection for a new orchard from the above varieties. It is best to plant more than one kind to ensure fertilization of the blossoms, but too many kinds are nothing but a nuisance at picking time.

POULTRY.

Chicken Cholera.

EDITOR MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN.

DEAR SIR: Last summer I lost all but fourteen of a large flock of fowls from a disease which I supposed to be chicken cholera. For fear there may be similar trouble this year I want to learn all about cholera and its treatment. My hens would stand with feathers ruffled, and lost their appetite. Droppings had a greenish or yellowish color. Combs were pale, and fowls usually died within a few days.

A. R.

Canandaigua, N. Y.

Answered by B. F. Shoemaker. Cholera is more prevalent in warm than in cold climates. It is a bacterial disease and is highly contagious, for the simple reason that the bacteria germs are ejected with the excrement and the healthiest and most robust animal to its ravages alike with those that are more delicate. Investigation by the government officials show that the first symptom of chicken cholera is, in a majority of cases, a yellow coloration of that part of the excrement which is secreted by the kidneys and which is normally of a pure white. This yellow coloring matter appears while the excrement is yet solid, while the patient presents a perfectly normal appearance and the appetite is good, before there is any elevation of the temperature. In some cases the first symptom is diarrhoea, the excrement being passed freely, and after a day or two it becomes a dark green in color. The comb is pale and bloodless and sometimes of a dark purple or blue.

The duration of the disease varies greatly, sometimes the bird dies within ten hours of the first attack of the disease, and again they will sometimes linger for several days.

There are numerous remedies for the cure of chicken cholera. In the first place, isolation is necessary; give them a warm, dry and comfortable house. Disinfect the premises thoroughly with a solution of eight ounces of sulphuric acid to two gallons of water; sprinkle the ground and everything in the house thoroughly with the disinfectant; remove all the droppings from the house and away from the healthy fowls. To each gallon of drinking water add a teaspoonful of carbolic acid. This also is a good disinfectant and will act as a preventive. The following is one that will be found efficacious in the cure of the disease. Isolate those affected, and give each a pellet about the size of a grain of corn, or a pea, three times a day, made from the following powder. (Use a little flour and water to make the pellets.)

Two ounces capsicum, two ounces pulverized asafoetida, four ounces carbonate of iron, one ounce pulverized rhubarb, six ounces Spanish brown, two ounces sulphur.

As a preventive, add a teaspoonful of the above powder to the soft food for every ten or twelve fowls, twice a week.

From My Experience.

Select early cockerels for breeding purposes if you use young fowls for this purpose.

The Wyandotte fowl does not assume its true plumage until half grown. Remember this, and don't blame the breeder because the eggs did not hatch out chicks full plumaged.

Do not allow little chicks to become chilled, or to run in wet grass, or to become lousy. If you do you will soon have a lot of sick chickens.

Do not allow the vessel your fowls drink out of to set in the sun's rays. Set the vessel or fountain in the shade of some tree or building.

There is nothing like tarred paper to line poultry houses with. It is effectually keeps out the wind and has a tendency to prevent lice.

In the beginning of winter sell off the culls and old fowls to make room for young stock.

W. A. CROSBY.

How to Avoid Poor Hatches.

Poor hatches may be avoided in having good healthy males, not over fat. Give them plenty of ground bone and oyster shell, green food of some kind, such as cabbage, lettuce, turnips or clover, and mix in soft feed, large runs and exercise. Do not let the eggs get chilled, or leave them too long after being laid without turning them daily. Never place eggs under hens unless they have been sitting four to five days.

Dust your hen once a week with insect powder, keeping the lice away and your hen will do her best. Should any eggs get broken during the incubation the good ones remaining should be taken out carefully and washed one after another in tepid water, removing all the contents of the nest and replacing good soft lay or chaff. Put in the eggs and get the hen on at once, not letting the eggs chill. If all these points are carefully watched, you can expect a good hatch.

JOHN BANSCHER, JR.

Give Them Room.

The amount of room for poultry in summer must depend upon the amount of land at disposal. Where there is plenty of land it will pay to give fifty fowls half an acre. But if so much land is not available a piece two rods wide and eight rods long will do very well for the same number of fowls, but the grass will get killed out in a short time in a smaller area. But the smaller the space the more labor bringing them green stuff, grit, etc., and the more trouble to keep them healthy.

Poultry Notes.

One of the best green feeds in early spring is clover cut fine in a fodder cutter. It is very rich in egg producing material.

Hamburgs and Leghorns sometimes will fly over a fence even seven feet high. Clipping out a few of the wing feathers will quiet them.

Skim milk may be substituted wholly or in part for meat food without a decrease in egg production provided the proper grain ration is given.

Some poultry men raise dwarf rape as a green food in spring. It is cut when from eight to twelve inches high, and will bear two or three cuttings.

It has been noticed that hens will remain in the yard where they have been raised without thinking of flying over a fence of moderate height, but if moved to a new yard they would fly over anything, hence the distinct advantage in keeping fowls their lifetime in the same yard.

Protecting High Priced Strawberry Plants from the White Grub.

At this time when strawberry growers are buying new high-priced plants, I doubt not many would like to know how to protect them from the white grub that eats the roots and kills the plant. When the Marshall was first introduced at \$10 per dozen plants, I set out four dozen in pots or baskets made of common screen wire netting, such as we use to keep the flies from our houses. Cut the wire into pieces about six or eight inches square and fold from the center, then turn over the two ends one-half inch and stay them with a piece of wire. Open at the top and set it into the ground even with the soil, then set the plant in it; the roots can grow through the netting, but they will be protected in the enclosure from the white grub, and if the worm should eat all the roots that grow out of the wire, there will be earth enough in the enclosure to give a good growth. It will not only save the plants, but a lot of vexation also, and in some cases, it will save the breaking of the third commandment. Old netting will do if there are not big holes in it.—S. H. Warren, in American Gardening.

Wise Economy.

There can be no doubt in the minds of all thinking people, that economy is a virtue, and one that we should all practice. If such a doubt has ever existed as to the desirability of cultivating this virtue, surely the experience of the past few years has been such as to convince even the most skeptical, that a wise man will keep within his income.

There are some of the sterner virtues, however, and this is one of them, that can be carried to such an extent that all the sweetness of living is forgotten, and one sinks to the level of a miser. This is a condition of affairs as much to be avoided as extravagance. Be wise, therefore, and do not go to excess.

The pastime of accumulating dollars becomes so fascinating to some that they deny themselves almost the absolute necessities of life; they stint themselves in their pleasures; they work from morning until night, endeavoring to get on without help, losing sight of the fact that while they are so busy saving pennies, they may in reality be losing dollars, by not allowing themselves time or opportunity to take advantage of the good that comes their way.

They begrudge the cost of a newspaper and the time it takes to read it. They are completely blind to the fact that economy, to be wise, must be practical and intelligent. They do not realize that an inexpensive assistant could aid very materially in getting produce ready for market, and that they, by an attentive reading of the market reports, would know when to offer their produce for sale to realize the most. It is certainly poor economy to be in at the wrong time, or with poorly advised produce.

Teach the children that wise economy consists in saving that greater good may be accomplished. A dollar does so much more than a penny—but it takes the pennies to make the dollar. Teach them that a penny gained at the expense of health is too valuable, or one that is gained through dishonesty. It takes a good many pennies to make a good dollar, and one must form habits of frugality, industry and general good living if he wants to own very many of the good dollars. Economize wisely if you would be successful.—Prairie Farmer.

APIARY.

Beekeeping in New England.

I sometimes wonder why it is that farmers and others here in New England do not keep bees, why not produce all the honey the family needs and have more or less to sell and to give friends? Why let so much nectar go to waste each year as is the case every year? There is hardly a town in New England that does not have sufficient natural forage to support one hundred hives of bees, and to store thousands of pounds of surplus honey. Now this is all lost every year in about one half of the towns in the New England states; it costs very little to start in the bee business, certainly not quarter as much as it does to start in the poultry business.

One of the principal reasons why more people do not try bees is the fear of being stung. With improved hives and other improved appliances for use in the apiary, there is little or no danger of being stung when handling bees or going about the hives. Once was the time when about the only way to get the honey from a bee-hive was to "brimstone" the bees. Now the talk about "taking up" a hive of bees and the "king bee," make the bee-keeper of the present day smile. The day of straw and box-hives, hollow trees and "gums" has passed and given way to hives so constructed that the interior of the strongest hive of bees can be taken apart, the queen seen, the combs containing brood, honey, pollen, etc., examined, and all replaced in the hive, and in less than one hour the bees will be working the same as though they had not been troubled for a year.

Now the entire operation above described can be gone through and the operator not get even one sting. It is not a difficult nor a dangerous operation by any means. If the people who really desire to keep bees would visit the apiary of some experienced bee-keeper and witness the operation of opening a hive of bees containing 70,000 bees, and live bees, too, they would soon discover that one person as well as another can handle bees and not get stung.

I shall be pleased to have anyone interested in bees call at my place and see ones handled the same as so many flies, that is, so far as getting stings is concerned.

I want to speak of one more thing in this article. I read in a recent issue of the PLOUGHMAN an article on bees and spraying trees while in bloom. Do not those people who spray at such times make a mistake? What is gained thereby? Prof. A. J. Cook, the best authority on such matters says "the best time to spray to destroy the codling moth is just as the blossoms have left the tree." I have found from personal experience that Prof. Cook is just right.

In several states laws have been enacted prohibiting the spraying of fruit trees when in bloom. An attempt was made in our own state the present winter to have a similar law passed, but without success. Now is there any good reason why the property of the bee-keeper should not be protected as well as that of the people whose trees are ravished by the gypsy moth? and the farmer who has an old cow diseased by tuberculosis? Upon what grounds does the state of Massachusetts pay nearly full value for a sick cow and not for a sick lamb, horse, or hog? Farmers, as a rule, have more or less such animals as those last mentioned, and they are subject to diseases. The answer is politics, politics.

HENRY ALLY.

Wenham, Mass.

While You Are Growing.

Growing girls and boys do not always appreciate that it is while they are growing that they are forming their figures for after life. Drooping the shoulders a little more every day, drooping the head as one walks, standing unevenly, so that one hip sinks more than the other—all these defects, easily corrected now will be five times as hard in five years, and twenty-five times as hard in ten years. A graceful easy carriage, and an erect, straight figure are a pleasure to behold and possessor, and are worth striving for.

An easy way to practice walking is to start out right. Just before you leave the house, walk up to the wall and see that your toes, chest and nose touch it at once; then, in that attitude, walk away. Keep your head up and your chest out, and your shoulders and back will take care of themselves.

Hood Farm Jerseys

FOR SALE—Choice young bull, solid color. If you are at the club meeting come and see him. sire Brown Bessie's son, sire of 6 in 14 lb. Dam, Tormentor's Fancy Wax, 15 lbs. 4 1/2 oz., by 6 in 14 lb. Dam, Tormentor's Columbus, the sire of 6 in 14 lb. list; 24 dam, Fancy Wax, 19 lbs. 3 1/2 oz., dam of 3 tested cows, by Fancys Harry. HOOD FARM, Lowell, Mass.

Kind, Size and Method of Putting in Tile.

In shape the tile in general use are round, octagonal and hexagonal. The horseshoe tile, single and double sole tile, have gone out of use or are employed only for special purpose. The double sole tile are especially good where the bottom of the drain is soft and likely to give under the pressure of the refilled drain. The single sole tile would answer the purpose, but they are not recommended on account of their ill shape. In drying preparatory to burning the upper side is contracted by the more rapid drying, leaving the tile when burned shorter on top, and consequently a wider opening at the joint than is advisable to leave.

Between the round and the hexagonal tile I think there is more in fancy than in fact, and believe that other conditions being equal as good a drain can be made with the round tile as with the hexagonal.

The quality of the tile used is always more important than the outside shape if they are straight. Every tile hauled on to the farm should when struck with a piece of steel sound as clear as the ring of a dinner bell. All tile of a yellow or clay color should be regarded with suspicion and left in the yard. The cherry red tile is as a rule a safe one to tie to, but the black glazed one should be avoided, and yet they are not nearly so dangerous as those not sufficiently burned. If any one is to take chances on either the yellow soft tile or the hard glazed ones let that risk be assumed by the man who makes them.

SIZE OF TILE.

For main drains a six-inch tile is ample for eighty acres, a five-inch tile for fifty to sixty acres, a four-inch tile for thirty to forty, and a three-inch tile for less acres. For branch drains I think nothing less than two-inch tile should be used, and if these branches have subdivisions it may be necessary to use three and even four-inch tile. It is not economy nor good practice to use tile very much too large, on the principle that if a little tile is good a larger one is better. Furthermore, if there is more water occasionally than the tiles will carry there is little danger of any serious results.

Some authors on tile drainage attempt to give tables and formulas for the guidance of those who are to determine the size of tile required to discharge the water of a certain area. Few if any of these tables are of any practical value except that they give a general but vague idea of what is required. Taking into consideration the several rules that apply in hydrostatics it is not strange that exact and delicate mathematical calculations are almost if not quite impossible. To give such data the following points must be carefully considered:

The smoothness and uniformity of the base, the rate of fall, the depth of the drain, the pressure of the water, the different effects on different soils in retarding the flow of water to the drain, the different angles at which subdivisions enter, the direct or indirect course of the drain, as well as other considerations arising at every step of the calculation. What is wanted in this as well as in other parts of the work is the application of the best judgment and common sense available on the farms, and with these judiciously used none need fail.

PUTTING IN TILE.

There are possibly three ways. One way is to begin at the head of the main drain, walking backwards, and placing the tile one against the other as closely as they can be pressed together, and as each junction is reached laying in a junction tile. A second method is to stand on the side of the drain, and with a crooked stick after the fashion of a harness hook, take a tile and with the stick put it in its proper place. This is what is termed the lazy man's way. A third method, and the one I think preferable, is to begin at the outlet. Before beginning have the tile placed along the side of drain within six or eight inches of the edge. Secure the outlets and place about a half dozen tile while on the edge of the drain. Carry an eight or ten-pound sledge in one hand, step into the drain right on the tile that have been placed. Begin laying tile with one hand by fitting each one as well as possible, being careful that it does not rock or tilt. Place one foot on it and tap it squarely but lightly with the sledge.

This will bring the tile into a close union, such that it will be impossible to pull one up after you have passed it. This method I think superior to either of the others, because inequalities in the bottom will be more quickly detected, and if the ground is soft at any point the walking over the tile will develop that weakness which would not be detected otherwise until the earth was thrown in to cover it, and the chances are against finding it out altogether in this case.

Again this method binds the tile so firmly that it is next to impossible to displace one, either before or while filling. It has always seemed to me that the junction tile could be placed to better advantage by this method than by

any other. The idea of using a sledge is not a theory but a practical plan that accomplishes the purpose named, and in addition it will (if used with care) indicate when tile are too soft to be allowed to remain. There are some very tenacious, gummy clay subsoils where it is possible to lay the tile too close, in which case it would of course be unwise to use any means of forcing them close together. These, however, are the exception and not frequent. When such soils are encountered I believe it is wise to lay the tile close together without pressure, and then throw in some half rotted straw, some broken stone, or possibly gravel or coal ashes in the bottom, filling up three to six inches at least before any dirt is thrown in for filling.—National Stockman.

Capacity of Silos.

It would seem as though we might be excused from answering over and over again questions relating to the capacity of silos, but it is perhaps fair to assume that others are much like ourselves—not over-careful to preserve the information not specially needed for present use.

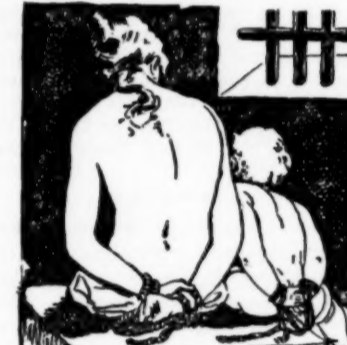
Silage varies in weight per cubic foot principally from the amount of pressure to which it has been subjected. Hence the last foot, or five feet, in a silo, which has been filled up to twenty feet deep is much heavier (because more compact) than the first foot, or five feet.

The following table gives the average weight per cubic foot of well matured corn silage, at different depths, after settling two days, the average for the entire depth:

| Average for | Lbs. | Average for | Lbs. |
|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| First 5 feet..... | 22 0 | Second 5 feet..... | 22 1 |
| Second 5 feet..... | 23 0 | Third 5 feet..... | 23 8 |
| Third 5 feet..... | 23 8 | Fourth 5 feet..... | 24 5 |
| Fourth 5 feet..... | 24 5 | Fifth 5 feet..... | 25 5 |
| Fifth 5 feet..... | 25 5 | Sixth 5 feet..... | 26 5 |
| Sixth 5 feet..... | 26 5 | Entire depth..... | 24 6 |

Find the number of square feet in the bottom of the silo, multiply this by the depth of silage and the product will be the total cubic feet of silage. For instance, if a silo is 12x15 feet, inside measurement, and twenty feet deep, it will have 3,600 cubic feet, and when well filled with mature corn, the average weight, per cubic foot, will be 333 pounds, or 1,200,000 pounds (sixty tons) for the whole. The lower layer of five feet in depth will be nearly twenty tons, the one above it about seventeen and one-half tons, and in this proportion for other depths.—Hoard's Dairyman.

If there is any one thing that a farmer should do himself it is the sowing his seed. If not rightly done all the rest of his year's labor will be in vain. There are some things we should not leave to hired help.—Farmers' Guide.



A more pitiful sight than a mother and her child, both captives and shackled in a cage, could not well be imagined. There are thousands of mothers and their babes who lie shackled by disease in the dungeons of death.

Without knowing it, or having the faintest comprehension of it, the faint lies with the mother. Too many women enter upon the responsibilities of motherhood and motherhood while suffering from weakness and disease of the delicate and important organs that make motherhood and motherhood possible. A woman who suffers in this way cannot be a capable wife and a competent mother. Before entering upon the duties and responsibilities of these positions, she should see to it that her health, both general and local, is thoroughly restored. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the best of all medicines for this purpose. It acts directly on the sensitive organs concerned, making them strong, healthy and vigorous. It promotes regularity of the functions, allays irritation and inflammation, heals ulceration, checks unnatural and exhausting drains and soothes pain. It tones and builds up the shattered nerves. It turns the dangers and pains of maternity into safety and ease. It is a medicine that is intended for this one purpose only and is good for no other. Dealers sell it and will refund \$10 for the bottle if returned within 30 days, which will make the cost of 12 bottles only \$40. Terms, cash with order. Better be quick and order a box of it. C. A. Parson, 154 Commercial Street, Boston, Mass.

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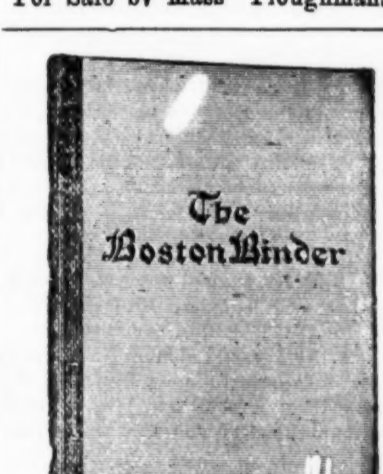
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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

BOSTON, APRIL 30, 1898.

Persons desiring a change in the address of their paper must state where the paper has been sent as well as the new direction.

No pain; no gala.

Talk buys no land.

If you and I were city dudes who would milk the cow?

It is easier to get a sharper hoe than a stronger arm.

Better a healthy farmer than a consumptive millionaire.

From May to August both time and energy are money indeed.

There is a money value in enthusiasm because it calls out one's best work.

Plough deep when others sleep; When others buy you'll have corn to keep.

Before every piece of brag becomes a deed, many pairs of shoes will be worn out.

The dollars which a man puts at interest during youth will work for him long.

You can buy money with time, but don't sell all you have. Keep some for personal use.

The worst thing about getting behind the work is that some task will be poorly done in catching up.

Don't shove the boys right and left and hold them down, and then expect them to fall in love with farming.

Method is a kind of machinery which saves brain work and temper, just as tools and implements save the back.

The lesson of the day for the farmer who intend to stay at home and not fight, is that farming pays in time of war. Any standard crop ought to bring a price this year.

If Farmer Slack would take half the interest in his farm that he has been taking in Cuba for the past three months he would make the farm pay and the Cubans would be just as well off.

Even the large market gardeners raise but a small proportion of their own seed. Seed growing is a business by itself. It hardly pays to bother with it on a small scale except for a few kinds of vegetables.

In buying fertilizers it is hardly worth while to pay big freight on cheap goods. Declares Professor Goessmann: "The high priced fertilizers may prove in many instances cheaper when the cost is compared with what they furnish."

The men who feed mostly ensilage are rejoicing at this season of the year in a special advantage. The barnyard manure is quite free from weed seeds and they can apply it to the soil without the danger of raising a wrong kind of crop.

This is the season when the average road superintendent does his best to make the highways impassable with stones and rubbish scraped out of the gutters. There ought to be a state highway school, of compulsory attendance, for every bungling road maker.

With plenty of good water at the right time any soil is good. Professor King estimates that irrigation, even in the Eastern section, would double the crops. There are wonderful possibilities in the thousands of brooks and rivers which now do nothing but flow idly toward the sea.

In stocking up either with plants, seeds, or live stock, it will pay if possible to select the seeds oneself or have an expert do it. In placing a large order it will pay to visit the nursery in person and to pay a good price for first choice. The effects of a right start will show throughout a lifetime.

Why spend one's life in a disagreeable occupation for the sake of a few extra dollars. The average man must spend most of his waking time in work. Hence if he gets any pleasure at all he must get it from his task. Better choose something that you like even if you think it will pay you less than something else. Then, too, what a man likes he does well. What he does well, pays well.

What is meant by the oft mentioned "nobility" of labor? A great many people find it hard to see anything of the kind. It is simply this, honest work makes character. There is no nobility in work which degrades the character, but labor which brings out and strengthens the muscle, morality and manhood is truly noble. Moreover there is a certain loss of self respect in being dependent on others, and a looser rich or poor, it always is a sense dependent.

How's This!

We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out all obligations made by him.

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F. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all Druggists.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The second trial of Thomas M. Bram, mate of the barkentine Herbert Fuller, charged with the murder of its captain, Charles I. Nash, was brought to an end by the rendering of a verdict of guilty without capital punishment. This trial had lasted for more than five weeks, much of the testimony being but a repetition of that given at the first trial. The jury was out nearly eleven hours and deliberated fourteen times before a decision could be reached. A majority were for conviction without qualification and three voted for acquittal. The final verdict was the result of a compromise. Still another trial is contemplated. It is doubtful, however, if application will be made for a third trial, as it is considered that his counsel have accomplished a great work in saving him from the gallows, and the risk of a third trial would be very great.

The United States is no longer a nation at peace, for war is at last an actual fact. The succession of events which culminated in the outbreak of hostilities has been rapid. Spain was given until Saturday noon to reply to the United States' ultimatum, the Spanish Cortes assembling on Wednesday and sufficient time was thus allowed for its organization and the consideration of such an important question. As soon as the text of the ultimatum had been communicated to the Spanish minister in this country, he applied for his passports and left for Madrid. Gen. Woodford was, however, given no opportunity to present the ultimatum, for before he could perform that duty, he was given his passports and immediately left Madrid. His journey out of the country was attended by some danger but he reached Paris in safety. Spain's refusal to receive the ultimatum was construed to be equivalent to an actual declaration of war and a move was immediately made upon Havana by our squadron, the fleet leaving Key West for Cuban waters early Friday morning. Cuba is now effectually blockaded and, in addition, several Spanish vessels have been captured. It is a question, however, if these captures, especially that of the Buena Ventura on Friday, are according to the usages of war, inasmuch as war had not formally been declared between the two countries. But Spain's action on Thursday, in notifying the United States minister that all diplomatic relations between the two countries were at an end, is held to have been a declaration of war and to justify the seizure of Spanish vessels wherever found.

A formal declaration of war was made by Spain on April 24, and while she does not bind herself to refrain from privateering, it is probable that she will not resort to it at present. All American merchant vessels were given thirty days to leave Spanish ports. England immediately declared herself to be neutral and gave notice that all American and Spanish war vessels must leave her ports within forty-eight hours. This necessitated the American fleet leaving the harbor of Hong Kong and making its attack upon the Philippine Islands. The good example of Great Britain is likely to have a favorable effect upon European countries, Austria, France and Italy being the only ones which are at all unfriendly, Austria being bound by ties of kinship to Spain, the Queen being an Austrian, and France by financial interests. Portugal has declared neutrality, and the Spanish fleet will be obliged to leave the Cape Verde Islands where it has been reported to be all this time, although there have been many rumors as to its whereabouts.

The President has issued a proclamation for 125,000 volunteers, to serve two years, the army reorganization bill, which permits the war strength of the regular army to be increased to 61,000 enlisted men, has been passed by Congress, and a measure, providing for the raising of money for the expenses of the war, has been brought before that body. On Monday, President McKinley sent a message to Congress recommending that a formal declaration of war be made, which was immediately responded to, the house passing it in just one minute and forty-one seconds. Preparations for the defense of the Massachusetts coast are so far advanced that perfect security may be felt. Much enthusiasm is displayed in enlisting, and employers and corporations all over the country are encouraging the enlistment of their employees, assuring them that their situations will be held for them, and, in many cases, half or whole pay allowed them during their military service.

There are to be some changes in the personnel of the President's cabinet, caused by several resignations, which will undoubtedly strengthen it. The resignation of Postmaster General Gary last week was something of a surprise, and naturally it was thought at first that this step was taken because of a lack of sympathy between the President and Mr. Gary. This was positively denied, the reason given, which is without doubt the true one, being that Mr. Gary's health has become so poor that he finds it necessary to surrender his position, especially in view of the greater strain put upon all the members of the cabinet caused by the present condition of affairs. Mr. Gary has been a faithful and efficient official in this responsible place. His successor who was appointed by the President and approved by Congress without delay, is Mr. Charles Emory Smith, editor of the Philadelphia Press, a choice happily made, as Mr. Smith will add considerable strength to the cabinet. He was considered very seriously for a cabinet position when the appointments were first made, but he was not chosen on account of local political opposition. He

was minister to Russia in the Harrison administration and was active at that time in the relief work during the great Russian famine of 1891 and 1892.

A second resignation, was that of John Sherman, secretary of state. The reason for Secretary Sherman's resignation is the condition of his health, which is much impaired by a long life of usefulness in the public service, added to his age, which is very near to seventy-five years. John Sherman has seen nearly fifty years of public life and made his mark upon the history of his country. He has served in the national house of representatives, in the senate, as secretary of the treasury under President Hayes, and lastly as secretary of state. His greatest work has been done in helping to shape the financial policy of the country, his influence always being on the side of sound money. His successor will be Judge Day, who has been first assistant secretary of state, and has borne the whole burden of the Cuban affair almost since the beginning of the administration. He will accept the position against his personal inclinations, yielding to the President's wishes in the matter, since a change at this time would be of doubtful wisdom. Several other names were mentioned for the place, among them being ex-Senator Edmunds of Vermont and Secretary Long of the Navy. Department. There have been many rumors as to other changes in the cabinet, but they have been proved to be without foundation.

Literary Notes.

The leading feature of HARPER'S MAGAZINE for May is "Awakened Russia," the first of a series of articles treating Russia as a military power in the forefront of modern political and territorial movements, by Julian Ralph, illustrated from drawings by T. de Thulstrup and Carlton T. Chapman, and from engravings by E. Schladitz. The war cloud which hangs over our southern waters has revived interest in the question of putting a canal through the Isthmus. In actual warfare such a canal would be of the utmost importance strategically, in that it would unite our forces on the Atlantic and the Pacific seaboard. In the May HARPER'S there is an article on the "Trans-Isthmian Canal Problem," by Colonel William Ludlow, U. S. A., who belongs to the Engineer Corps, and was chairman of the recent Nicaragua Commission. The article explains the various attempts at a canal, and why they have failed; and it gives the clearest explanation yet presented of the engineering problems to be overcome, and of the best means of their solution.

"East Side Considerations," is a cheerful and sympathetic account of the less-familiar side of New York life, by E. S. Martin, illustrated by W. A. Rogers. "Varallo and Val Sesia" is an account of a comparatively unknown Italian artist considered by high authorities to be Raphael's superior, to which is added a graphic sketch of life in an unexplored corner of Italy. It is by Edwin Lord Weeks, and is illustrated from drawings by E. L. Weeks and from photographs. "Some Byways of the Brain," second paper, by Andrew Wilson, M.D., is a scientific explanation of characteristic brain processes as disclosed by the latest investigations.

The short stories in the May HARPER'S are "How Order No. 6 went Through," As Told by Sun-Down Leflare," by Frederick Remington, illustrated by the author. "The Bishop's Memory," by Marguerite Merington, illustrated by W. T. Smedley. "Old Sil's Clem," by Paschal Cognigni. "The Thunder Thief," by Gelett Burgess. "A Birthday Poem," by Robert Stewart.

A new corporation, known as the American Sardinia Corporation, with a capital of \$3,000,000, chartered under the laws of Maine, has been formed. The corporation includes fifty-one factories situated on the eastern coast of Maine. The plant has an annual output of more than 1,000,000 cases, and will afford employment to 6,000 hands all the year round.

An interesting occasion recently was the Huguenot celebration in New York city of the three hundredth anniversary of the signing of King Henry IV. of France of the edict of Nantes, by which freedom and the common rights of humanity were granted to the French Protestants. Old Huguenot psalms and chants formed part of the exercises, and all the leading New York members of the Huguenot Society in America, which was formed fifty years ago, attended. Edward Belloc, a delegate from London, read an historical paper and Professor Samuel M. Jackson of New York University told of the scope of the edict.

According to the latest reports of the strength of the national guard the three states having the largest artillery force are California, 586; Ohio, 437, and New York, 416. Other states having two hundred artillery men or over are Massachusetts, 266; Pennsylvania, 245; Indiana, 200; Alabama, 204; Mississippi, 240, and Louisiana, 401. The three states of the Union credited with the largest number of adults liable to military service are Illinois, 852,635; Pennsylvania, 806,230; New York, 750,000. The only other state able to furnish more than 500,000 fighting men under a special call to arms is Ohio, with 665,000. The states able to furnish from 250,000 to 500,000 are Massachusetts, 268,529; New Jersey, 284,887; Georgia, 264,021; Indiana, 481,192; Wisconsin, 375,601; Iowa, 269,510; Missouri, 400,000; Kentucky, 361,137; Texas, 300,000.

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Are features peculiar to Hood's Pills. Small in size, tasteless, efficient, thorough. As one man

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said: "You never know you have taken a pill till it is all over." See C. I. Hood & Co., Proprietors, Lowell, Mass. The only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

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EVERY AMERICAN should own one of these elegant Silver-plated and beautifully Engraved Souvenir Spoons of the WRECKED BATTLESHIP MAINE. I will send one sample, coffee size, with full catalogue, by mail to any address for only 10 cents, silver or stamps; doz. 80 cents. AGENTS WANTED in every town and city. Address, L. N. CUSHMAN, Mfr., 34 Oliver Street, Boston, Mass.

Washington News.

War rumors have merged into war action consequently, war talk has become even more general to the exclusion of all else. As the central station from which operations generally will be directed, the seat of government becomes an unusually interesting place. The President is firm in his conviction that he has pursued the right course; that he has exhausted peaceful methods in dealing with the country's enemy, and that in declaring war he is pursuing a just course which will be upheld by the entire nation.

To what extent will war affect the industries of the nation? In its incipient stages it is difficult to tell. Opinions greatly vary as to the probable length of the war. Many express the belief and hope that it will be short and decisive. War is expensive, great quantities of treasures must be expended, and as the expenditure takes place almost entirely within our borders, it is obvious that somebody will receive the benefit of it. It is a matter of history that during the civil war, those who staid at home got rich. In the South, where armies were tramping back and forth across country, devastating as they went, of course there was no prosperity; but at the North, where there was no smell of powder, industries hummed in supplying munitions of war and products to the thousands in the field.

Things are rather quiet at the Department of Agriculture. There are some few vacancies where Young America has gone off to join the front ranks but Secretary "Tama Jim" proposes to keep their positions open for them," he says, "and I believe they will be back before very long. I think the war is going to be short. History does not prove the Spaniards as a whole, good fighters. When Wellington drove the French out of Spain, he had the Spanish of course for allies—on their own ground, too—and mighty poor allies they were."

STATISTICS OF FERTILIZERS.

The statistician of the Department is just issuing a bulletin on fertilizers which is of some interest in view of the vast amount of commercial fertilizer consumed annually in this country and its absolute necessity to the farmer. It is no longer possible to grow crops successfully and profitably without the use of concentrated fertilizer. Perhaps the most important showing of the bulletin is the statement, measured statistically, that under ordinary conditions the larger the expenditures on fertilizers, the larger the net profit accruing to the planter. It reviews the production and consumption of fertilizers, analyses of fertilizers and abstracts of the fertilizer laws of all the states. The important matter of experimenting with home mixing of fertilizers has always been left to the various government experiment stations, each state being of course specially fitted to take up the matter of the particular fertilizers required for its own soil. It is generally conceded, however, that the farmer's best method lies in mixing his own fertilizers in an intelligent manner, buying the raw material and either mixing it just prior to application or distributing the different ingredients separately. It appears from the report that in 1896 (the full returns for 1897 not being available) the commercial fertilizer consumed in the United States amounted to 1,894,000 tons, valued at \$37,688,000. Of this, about \$7,375,000 worth was imported, while the value of that exported was \$4,400,000.

FORESTRY PROTECTION.

Another bulletin which will be issued soon treats of an economic subject which will before long force itself upon many sections of the country for vigorous action. It is the preservation of forest lands and the rehabilitation of old cut-over lands. The bulletin will present the report of an expert on the forest condition and forestry interests of Wisconsin with a discussion of proper forestry methods by the Chief of the Division of Forestry, B. E. Fernow. The showing is that there are several million acres of land in northern Wisconsin from which the timber has been cut, and which are too poor for profitable agriculture, which should be purchased by the state, at the nominal figure of a few cents an acre at which they are offered by their owners and regrown again to forests, thus creating future wealth for the states. Such practices are largely followed in European countries where the governments buy up old worn out land and establish them in forests, thus improving surrounding climatic conditions, forming a source of future revenue and improving the land. France alone, it is stated, has spent in the neighborhood of \$40,000,000 toward reforesting dunes, mountain sides and waste lands.

NEW YORK LEADS THE MOVEMENT.

In this connection it is easy to note that the state of New York promises to be the first to enter upon a rational forestry policy. It spent \$1,000,000 last year for the purchase of forest land in addition to the 700,000 acres it owned before, and this year it has voted another half million for a like purpose, and Governor Black has just signed a bill which sets aside 30,000

acres, under the direction of Cornell University, where a demonstration of practical forestry methods is to be made, which may serve as a model for the management later of the entire state forest reserve. Mr. Fernow, of the Department of Agriculture, resigns his position as chief of Division of Forestry to take charge of this work.

IMPORTING JAPANESE DIRT.

A curious experiment is being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture in connection with the soja bean. This bean is a nitrogen gatherer, like clover and other legumes, and gets this fertilizing constituent from the air, by means of small nodules on its roots, through which the nitrogen is absorbed. It has been discovered that these nodules or excrescences are the result of a tiny germ and in the case of the soja bean it has been found generally that the roots lacked these nodules. The question arose, was the germ present. Some few beans were noticed in Massachusetts whose roots possessed these nodules and when the dirt in which they had grown was mixed with other dirt in which sojas were planted, the nodules developed plentifully. Japan is the home of the soja and as some new and improved varieties of the bean have been recently acquired from there, some of the soil from old Japanese soja fields will be brought to this country and mixed with dirt in which experiments are made with these beans.

THE NEW ALFALFA.

Mr. Wilson has great hopes of the new alfalfa of which seed has recently been procured from Turkistan. A small plot has been grown here, but otherwise it is believed it has not been tested in this country. Tests have been made however, of our own alfalfa or lucerne, alongside of the Turkistan in the dry regions where the latter flourishes, and the drouth resisting qualities of the ordinary variety found much inferior. "If it only develops an advantage of ten per cent. over the old variety," said Professor Fairchild, who has the matter of the experiments in hand, "why it will mean dollars, and thousands, to our farmers. Through Kansas and many of the western states the farmers depend almost exclusively in many cases upon alfalfa as a forage. We secured about four tons of the seed and will have fully a thousand experiments. Every particle of the seed has been placed and I have applications enough to use up ten more tons if we had them. Another important feature of the new variety is its frost resisting quality. If this develops as I think it will, another important feature will be added to it."

PURER AND CLEANER BUTTER.

Major Alvord, Chief of the Dairying Division of the Department, says that dairymen and butter makers have scored a decided triumph in Pennsylvania. The pure food laws of that state are well to the front in all directions. One of the worst features of the modern butter trade has been the putting on the market of old, rancid unsalable butter, worked over, sterilized and mixed with a little fresh cream, as fresh butter. It analyzes well and is difficult of detection and is giving more trouble than oleomargarine. Under the new Pennsylvania law, it is required to be labeled "Renovated Butter," which designates it at exactly what it is.

In all matters of prosecution for violation of the pure food laws—the filled cheese law and the oleomargarine law—the Treasury Department exercises exclusive jurisdiction, and while treasury officials do effective work, they do it rather from the standpoint of obtaining revenue than in the interests of honest products and protection to the consumers. This seems to be something of a mistake if the intent, as well as the letter of the law is to be carried out. If the Treasury officials can detect a case of fraud and collect a fine, they are quite willing to have the offender continue his practices which will enable them to pounce upon him again. This brings revenue to the government but meantime the consumer continues eating adulterated and bogus products. It can be stated, however, that the two departments work very harmoniously together and that the suggestions of the Secretary of Agriculture are received and acted upon in good part by the Treasury officials.

GUY E. MITCHELL.

When a young man comes to the city much depends upon starting right, and more depends upon starting with right friends than any other item. The best plan is to go to a popular, not fashionable church, and stick to it until the new acquaintances become friends. The most desirable acquaintances, of both sexes, in cities are found in the churches. A young man requires good friends as well as a good situation. When both are secured he need not go wrong.

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NEW MAIL

REDUCED TO \$65.

Highest Grade—Latest Improvements.

MEN'S AND LADIES' PATTERNS.

Best Medium Priced Wheels in Market.

HANOVER Men's \$45.

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The place to buy Wheels.

Wm. READ & SONS,

107 Washington St., Boston.

Established 1826.

America's Ten Greatest Dairying Authorities on Cream Separators.

The Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station.

In conducting our Dairy School, we have had occasion to use various kinds of improved U. S. Separators for dairy instruction during several winters past. Our students have always been pleased with the operation of these separators, and we find that they skim the milk very clean indeed from fat, and that they are generally very satisfactory.

W. A. HENRY, Dean College of Agriculture.

Cornell University Experiment Station.

We have used the U. S. Separators for the past four or five years, and have found them at all times efficient and reliable. They are easily cleaned and kept in order, and can be depended upon for satisfactory work.

H. H. WING, Prof. Dairy Husbandry.

Massachusetts Agricultural College.

We regard the Improved United States Separator as one of the very best all round machines. In cleanliness of skimming it surpasses all others. It compares favorably with the rest in capacity. Our man calls it the smoothest running machine we have, although it has been in use nearly three years—a good comment on its wearing qualities.

F. S. COOLEY, Prof. of Ag't.

Michigan Experiment Station.

Your No. 5 Separator was received, set up, and has been operated daily since the 4th of January. Each of our dairy boys has now had a turn at it, setting it up, running it, washing it, and testing the skim-milk. They all like the machine, on account of its easy running and simplicity. We are running through milk 12 to 24 hours old, washed to over 85 and usually about 90 degrees. The per cent. of fat in the skim-milk, so far as reported, will not reach the average of a tenth of a percent, and often is too small to read, in the skim-milk bottle. We are pleased with the machine in every possible way, as far as we have been able to observe it in a month's use.

CLINTON D. SMITH, Director Michigan Experiment Station.

1898 Record Equally as Good.

I do not know that I have anything to add to what I wrote you in January, 1897, of any changes to make in the statements therein made (see above).

C. D. SMITH, Director.

Vermont Experiment Station.

It has been the uniform custom of the officers of the Vermont Station to decline to issue letters of a testimonial nature. I may say, however, that I can and do refer parties inquiring regarding the merits of the Improved United States Separators to the records of the running of the same as published in our report for 1894.

(The tests referred to are as follows):

| Aug. 14..... | 0.05 | Aug. 19..... | 0.05 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|
| Sept. 1..... <td>0.05</td> <td>Sept. 1..... <td>0.05</td> </td> | 0.05 | Sept. 1..... <td>0.05</td> | 0.05 |

The results obtained by the use of these machines at our Dairy Schools of the past two years are full better, so far as the character of the skimming is concerned, than those given in the report.

JOSEPH L. HILLS (Director Vt. Experiment Station).

Iowa Experiment Station.

Your two machines have been here in use for some time and are doing excellent work. We have succeeded in skimming over 2,500 pounds per hour, and as close as 99.9 of one percent of fat left in skim-milk, with the larger machine. This we consider excellent work for the winter. The small machine does equally good work.

G. L. MCKAY, State Dairy Instructor, Iowa Ag't College.

Again in June; Iowa Experiment Station.

Your large size factory machine has been doing excellent work. We have used it six days per week for the past two months, and it skims to a trace right along, skimming 2,500 to 2,700 pounds per hour.

G. L. MCKAY, State Dairy Instructor.

Ohio State University.

Enclosed you will find statement of the several runs made by your various Separators.

(Tests from the runs referred to show the following):

| January 13..... | 0.02 | February 1..... | 0.02 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------|------|
| January 13..... <th>0.02</th> <th>February 1.....</th> <th>0.02</th> | 0.02 | February 1..... | 0.02 |

Of course, you will understand that these runs were made by students who at the beginning had no knowledge of separator work, and who were not particularly expected under such circumstances as were operated by an expert.

THOMAS F. HUNT (Professor of Agriculture).

Idaho Experiment Station.

Our Dairy School has just closed, having had a very successful career. We have used daily one of your No. 5 Improved U. S. Separators. It has given perfect satisfaction, and is the favorite with all the boys.

CHAS. F. FOX, Professor of Agriculture.

Connecticut Experiment Station.

The Improved U. S. Steam Turbine is running every day, and has been since April. It is an easy-running and thorough skimming machine. In two recent tests, made on different days, running a trifle over 200 lbs. of milk per hour, the skim-milk showed:

No. 1, 0.06 of 1 per cent. butter fat.

No. 2, 0.07

This is as close as any one could ask for.

A. W. OGDEN, Chemist, Conn. Ag't Experiment Station.

Missouri Experiment Station.

The Improved U. S. Hand Separator was used in our Dairy School during the winter term to the entire satisfaction of instructors and students, and was found excellent work.

J. H. WATERS, Dean and Dir. Ag't.

The Improved United States Separators are now not almost but altogether universal. The number in use is 120,000, more or less. Their sale is eleven to one of all imitating machines combined. The latest improvements carry them still further to the front. Send for new Dairy catalogue No. 201 or new Creamery catalogue No. 196.

VERMONT FARM MACHINE CO., Bellows Falls, Vt.

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The largest complete line of farm machinery manufactured by any single concern in the world.

Includes: Osborne Columbia Reapers, No. 8 Reapers, Columbia Inclined Corn Harvester & Binder, All-Steel Toppers, Columbia Grain Harvester and Binder, All-Steel Self Dump Rakes, Columbia Mowers, 12 & 24-horse, All-Steel Hand Rakes, Columbia Flexible & Reversible Disc Harrows, Heavy Disc Harrows, Adjustable Peg-Tooth Harrows, Sulky Spring-Tooth Harrows, Spring-Tooth Harrows, Combination Harrows, Horse Hoe Cultivators, Every machine is fully warranted and is the best of its class that can be produced with good material, complete equipment, superior skill and long experience.

The Out here shown is that of our OSBORNE COLUMBIA REAPER, which continues, as in the past, to be a prime favorite wherever known. It has the largest, broadest, face main wheel in use—supplies perfect power, perfect traction and easy draft. Has the lightest platform used on any reaper—the necessary strength is supplied by the simple, perfect trip device that never fails to throw off grain. Easiest to raise and lower the grain wheel. Flat, firmly folded up right angle for transportation, or folding through narrow gates. It's a fast cutter, light, strong, durable and long lived.

See our local Agent before you buy.

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Country Real Estate.

The Ruel Thayer farm in Mendon, consisting of about seventy-five acres of land, a dwelling-house and stable, has been sold to L. L. Hunter for a country residence.

William T. Chase has sold a 3 1/2-acre estate fronting on Bay Road, Sharon, to Charles H. Barnham. H. N. Sherman has sold his five-acre place in East Sharon, to A. J. Giberson.

An estate in Randolph, belonging to M. R. Greene of Boston, consisting of five acres of land with buildings has been sold to Charles A. Phillips of Boston for a country residence.

Samuel D. Pond of Holliston has sold his dwelling house, together with 40,000 square feet of land on Hollis street, opposite the High School in that town, to Joseph L. Hardy of Marlboro, N. H.

The H. W. Crossman stock farm of 125 acres at Weathersfield, Vt., has been sold to a resident of Rupert, Vt., for a residence. The farm has a frontage on the Connecticut river.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

ARBUTUS.

Along the woods' brown edge
The wind goes wandering
To find the first pink pledge—
The hint of spring.

The withered leaves around,
She scatters every one,
And gives to winter ground
A glimpse of sun.

And to the woodland dumb
And desolate so long
She calls the birds to come
With happy song.

Then the arbutus! This
The pledge, the hint she sought—
The blush, the breath, the kiss—
Spring's very thought!

—Frank Dempster Sherman, in the April Scribner's.

"ESPECIALLY THOSE."

They did not know that Billy had so many friends until he lay a-dying. Then they knew.

It takes some of us more than four years to make one friend. Billy had only lived four years altogether, but every one he knew was his friend, and he knew every one in his little world.

"I want some ice for Master Billy's head," said the parlor-maid. "He's that feverish, doctor says, it's to be kept on all the time."

Mr. Stallon, the fish-monger, looked grave.

"I haven't a bit of ice on the premises. It's ordered, but it won't be here till to-morrow. Dear! dear! and to think as the little gentleman's so bad!"

Mr. Stallon was a stout, seafaring-looking man, with a short, brown beard. He shook his head and looked really sorry.

"Whatever shall we do?" cried the parlor-maid. "Whatever shall we do?" "Do!" echoed Mr. Stallon. "Do! why get some, to be sure. I'll go to Fareham for it myself. Tell your lady she shall have it in an hour."

Mr. Stallon owned an inn as well as a fish shop. He crossed the road to his inn yard; there he harnessed his horse to his spring cart, and he drove to Fareham for the ice. Billy's town is a very little one, but Fareham, six miles off, is big, and Mr. Stallon got the ice.

He was afraid that he drove furiously and beat his horse, but he quite forgot to charge for the ice, and no one ever thanked him for getting it. He didn't mind; he was one of Billy's friends.

The earl was another. The earl is young, fresh colored and chubby, and somewhat lacking in dignity. He is an M. F. H. for all that, and Billy was wont to go with him to the kennels, and knew all the old hounds by name.

The earl and Billy held long conversations on the subject of poachers. Billy's sympathies were apt to go with the poachers, but that was the fault of the Radical curate.

As for the curate, he and Billy were dear friends. He would spend long sunny afternoons bowling slows and twisters and overhands to Billy, and he could sing such charming songs.

One of Billy's peculiarities was that he exacted songs from all his friends. Then he learned them himself, and sang them in his turn. The curate's favorite song was "For It's My Delight on a Shiny Night." It was this song that caused Billy's predilection for poachers.

The earl could sing, too. Of his repertory the favorite was:—

She went and got married, that 'ard-earted girl,
And it was not to a Wicount, and it was not to a Earl.

Here Billy always interrupted, exclaiming delightedly. "That's you, you know!" and demanded the verse again.

There was one friend from whom Billy exacted no songs. This was old Williams, the gardener. He was a very good gardener, but deaf. Billy was the only person whom he could hear well. He really had no notion of singing, that gardener. So he told Billy tales in broad Gloucestershire instead, and Billy trotted after him, assisting in all his horticultural operations, and they loved each other.

But the fever had got a hold upon Billy. It was such a hot July.

At last a Sunday came when those who loved him best feared that he could not last through the day. At morning service the curate gave it out that "the prayers of the congregation are desired for William Wynnnington Ingram;" then he paused, and with a ring of supplication in his voice which startled the listening people, said, "Little Billy Ingram, whom we love—who lies grievously sick."

"William Wynnnington Ingram" had fallen on inattentive ears, but the familiar name struck home, and the congregation prayed.

In the pause which followed the words "especially those for whom our prayers are desired," the deaf gardener's voice was heard to say "Amen;" but no one smiled at him that Sunday.

The earl had no surprise to take off, so he reached Billy's house first; but the curate caught him at the drive gate, for the curate ran.

There was no sound in the house but the voice of Billy's mother, singing to him over and over again, the same old nursery rhyme. It ran:—

Oh, do not come, but go away—
Away with your eyes that peep;
Oh, do not come to Billy's house,
For Billy has gone to sleep.

His mother knelt at the head of the bed, singing tirelessly. His father knelt down at the other side, devouring the thin, flushed little face with loving, sorrowful eyes. The curate knelt down at the foot of the bed, and the earl, who made no attempt to wipe the tears from off his ruddy cheeks, knelt by a chair. By the darkened window sat the pretty hospital nurse, in her white cap and apron.

It was a quaint, lilting tune, and Billy loved it, but he could not sleep. His father came down to the earl and the curate, and silently they followed him up into the darkened nursery. Billy smiled when he saw them. He could not speak, he was so tired.

"Oh, do not come to Billy's house,"

the mother's voice went on. Then she sang more softly, and suddenly there was silence.

Billy had gone to sleep. The drive gate clicked, a quick step sounded on the gravel outside. It was the doctor. He came hastily into the room, and, stepping softly over to Billy's mother, lifted her up, and set her in a chair.

He took her place, laying a hand on the child's pulse, and on his forehead. Then he said in a whisper—

"He'll do; he's gone to sleep."

The three men rose from their knees, as Billy's mother fell on hers, with the first tears she had shed in all that weary week.

They followed the doctor out of the room, and crept down stairs into the hall. The doctor pushed Billy's father into the dining-room, saying—

"You must give me some luncheon. I want to see the little chap again, in twenty minutes or so. What the deuce was the matter with you all? Did you think he was dead?"

"I did," said the earl, in an awe-struck whisper.

"Go away!" said the doctor, testily; "go away, you long-faced lunatics, and leave us in peace!"

The two young men turned and went into the drive, where they found Williams waiting for news. The earl went up to the old man, and put his mouth to his ear, saying loudly, and with pauses between words,—

"He is better—he's asleep—the doctor says—he'll do."

Williams blew his nose noisily, in a large, red handkerchief; then said huskily—

"The Lord be praised, Your Lordship, the Lord be praised!"

Then the earl and Williams shook hands; and the curate and Williams shook hands. The two young men shut the gate softly and went down the road.

The curate went to luncheon with the earl. The earl grew frivolous, as his manner is; he has not much dignity, and he and the curate are old friends, for they were at Eton and "the House" together.

"I say, old chap!" said the earl, confidentially, "you were jolly careful that the Almighty should make no mistake this morning."

The curate leaned back in his chair, and with more than a reminiscence of their college tutor in his manner, remarked—

"In matters of importance it is well to be strictly accurate."—London Outlook.

He Had a Practical Mind.

The people who gathered three times a day at Mrs. Skinner's table represented a wide range of territory, for Mrs. Skinner's establishment, like most New York boarding-houses, was cosmopolitan. The house also enjoyed the reputation of being a "homelike place."

A reputation due, in part, to the frequent appearance on the table of dishes whose social position might be doubtful, but which always awakened pleasant memories in the minds of the boarders.

On this evening a plate heaped with ruffled circles flecked with white occupied the centre of the table. Mr. Jimson, who is a native of New York and sits at the head of the table, smiled and remarked:

"You may say what you please about dessert, there's nothing goes so well with coffee as a good, old-fashioned cruller."

"It amuses me to hear you call them crullers," said Mr. Haskins. "Now in Boston we never think of calling them anything but doughnuts. But I suppose the influence of the early Dutch settlers of New Amsterdam."

"Why don't you give them a name that means something? They're fried cakes—nothing more or less. Anybody in Connecticut will tell you that," interrupted Mr. Chesterfield, the floor walker.

"I'm afraid you gentlemen are not given to nice discriminations," remarked Mr. Collamore, the young lawyer at the right of the landlady.

"There's a great difference between a cruller and a doughnut. A cruller is sort of twisted, and is solid; but a doughnut is round and has a hole in it. Now these are—"

"It always makes me laugh to hear men discuss any question of cookery," chirped up Mrs. Riggs, the stenographer. "They see only the outside, and never notice the essential things. Now let me tell you the difference between crullers and doughnuts. A cruller is much richer and 'shorter' than a doughnut. It is made with eggs, while a doughnut isn't. The shape has nothing to do with it. A doughnut is made of plain dough."

"Why, that's what we used to call 'poverty cakes' up in Vermont!" exclaimed Mr. Plunkett, the drug clerk on Mrs. Skinner's left.

"I was about to say," resumed Mrs. Riggs, severely, "that doughnuts are made of plain dough, raised as bread is raised, while crullers are not raised."

"But down in the State of Maine we have what we call plain doughnuts and what we call raised doughnuts, both," said the medical student.

"And out in Chicago we call those things 'sinkers,'" said the tall, long-haired man at the foot of the table as he pointed to the plate.

The debate lasted long and grew eloquent. In the midst of it there was the sound of a chair pushed back and a satisfied sigh. The new boarder, a boy—just a plain boy who was learning the hardware business—got up and remarked, as he slid out of the door, "Them things may be doughnuts, or crullers, or fried cakes, or poverty cakes, but they're awful good. I ain't had any before since I left home. That's why I ate so many. We used to call 'em 'fried holes.'"

The eyes of the boarders turned toward the plate in the centre of the table. It contained only a little powdered sugar. The boy had listened to the discussion, but he had not allowed it to divert him from more momentous matters.

"I believe that boy will do real well in the hardware business," said Mrs. Skinner, after a painful pause. "The Watchman."

THE HOME CORNER.

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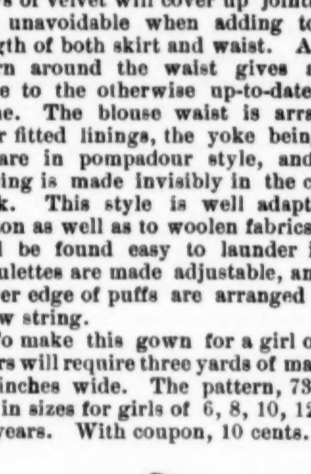


7354—Girl's Costume.

Fawn-colored cashmere and golden brown silk velvet ribbon made this handsome dress, the yoke and collar being of very fine linen batiste that comes all ready tucked for this purpose.

The simple and stylish arrangement of this costume recommends it to mothers who do their own sewing, it being well adapted to the making over that has so often to be done where the family is large. A yoke of velvet, silk or other contrasting material, with the fitting portions of the sleeves to match, will take out short material while the rows of velvet will cover up joints that are unavoidable when adding to the length of both skirt and waist. A sash worn around the waist gives added style to the otherwise up-to-date costume. The blouse waist is arranged over fitted linings, the yoke being cut square in pompadour style, and the closing is made invisibly in the center back. This style is well adapted to cotton as well as to woolen fabrics, and will be found easy to launder if the epanettes are made adjustable, and the lower edge of puffs are arranged on a draw string.

To make this gown for a girl of ten years will require three yards of material 44 inches wide. The pattern, 7354, is cut in sizes for girls of 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. With coupon, 10 cents.



7346—Ladies' Waist.

7348—Ladies' Paquin Skirt.

The gown shown in the illustration exemplifies one of the latest skirts and at the same time provides a bodice which is singularly well adapted to the emergencies of remodeling as well as to entirely new materials. The model is of taffeta silk in orchid purple combined with lace and chiffon, than which no material is better suited to the many occasions of semi-dress, but the very fact that these materials enter into the making of the waist provides an admirable suggestion for evolving new gowns from old. The foundation for the waist is a fitted lining, which together with an all-true vest, closes at the centre front, but the bodice proper is fitted by shoulder seams and under-arm gores only.

The handsome cream colored guipure net and the silk lining are cut and basted together, then laid over the foundation, the soft shirred chiffon having just been sewed firmly in its place. The sleeves which match the skirt are two-seamed and show only the slight fullness necessary to support the epanettes and are finished with straight cuffs of the lace. Narrow full ruffles of chiffon finish all the free edges and a soft draped collar of the same completes the neck. At the waist is a belt of velvet with clasps of cut steel. The skirt is cut after one of the latest models, known as the Paquin

and includes the apron front with the graduated circular flounce. The apron, the flounce and the back are cut separately and seamed together except where plaid or striped material of unusual width is used, when the straight back given in the pattern can be pinned to the flounce and the two cut in one. The apron portion is smooth fitting, being made snug by means of small darts and all the fullness at the top is laid in plaits at the back, which widen out at the lower edge.

The skirt is lined throughout but is entirely unstiffened and for indoor wear should slightly more than touch at the back. To cut this waist for a lady of medium size six yards of material twenty-two inches wide will be required, with five-eighths of a yard for the vest. The pattern 7346 is cut in sizes for a 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inch bust measure. To make the skirt ten yards of the same width will be required. The pattern 7348 is cut in sizes for a 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 inch waist measure. With coupon, ten cents for each pattern.

Most of the spring hats are worn down over the face. Toques, which will be much in favor, are an exception, being worn back from the face. They are made of soft flexible straws, which may be manipulated at will to suit the style of the wearer, and require but little trimming.

Sleeves have dwindled considerably and unless rightly fashioned, the effect is not especially graceful. A little stiffening put in the top of the sleeve will prevent the distressing fence-like appearance which is characteristic of some home-made sleeves.

The reign of the hook and eye is seriously threatened. They have been a necessary evil so long that it seems difficult to believe that anything can be used as a substitute. So many hooks are necessary in the complicated fashion of making waists that to venture into a closet lined with closely hung waists is like running the gauntlet, from which one emerges with disheveled hair, torn laces and temper awry. Even that "hump" fails to keep the hook and eye always in close connection and color investigating one's back hair and glimpses behind the scenes which are wholly involuntary are the result. A substitute which can be used in many instances is the snap fastening, like those used with so much comfort on the street glove. Two of them mounted guard over the placket insures one a peaceful mind on that score. One or two may be used for fastening the free edge of a collar closing in the back or on the side and the quiet little snap as it slips into place gives one assurance that it is there to stay as long as needed. Those who are sensible enough to insist upon a pocket in their dresses may use these fastenings to close the opening and add thereby to the looks of the dress as well as keep the contents more safely. Belts may be fastened down with them and even a light weight skirt may be kept in its place under the belt by their use. They are better adapted for use on the heavier cloths and care should be taken that they are sewed on the proper side up. They give more comfort for a small price than anything I have met with for some time.

Those who have short necks, especially if inclined to plumpness, will find a collar much more comfortable when shaped down at a point both top and bottom. They are much more becoming, as well, but comfort is, after all, the first consideration for workaday people.

The series of demonstration lessons at the Boston Cooking School, which closed with the extra lesson on marketing last Wednesday, has been a very successful one. The new rooms of the school are very attractive, the corps of teachers has been greatly strengthened by the addition of Miss Maria Howard as assistant, and the principal, Miss Farmer, and her assistant, Miss Willis, have kept the school in the forefront. The work of the year is by no means over, as the normal class and the various practice classes, private lessons and outside classes make of the school a busy place until the summer season.

We have given each week full reports of the demonstration lectures and these we know, have been appreciated not only by our regular subscribers but many, all over the country, subscribe for the paper for these reports alone. The reports are valuable not only for the recipes given but for the principles of cooking which are continually being emphasized therein. The writer owes much to these lessons which have served to supplement a thorough home training and much practical experience. Even the oldest and best trained housekeeper can find something to learn in these Cooking School lessons, for Miss Farmer is never content to stand still in her chosen profession but is continually making original investigations and keeps in touch with all that is best and most advanced in the art of cooking.

We realize that many of our readers would find it neither possible nor practical to follow some of the recipes exactly, but any housekeeper of experience may reduce them to their "lowest terms" as Mrs. Hill says in the last excellent number of the Boston Cooking School Magazine. The non-essentials may be omitted and by keeping the principles in mind, they may be adapted very easily to home use.

We wonder if the farmers realize how much the work done at the school is in their interest. The teachers in their work are constantly bringing out new ways of using vegetables in an attractive way which leads to their more general use. They teach how to use new varieties of vegetables which are not in general use, and thereby create a demand for them at the markets; they encourage the liberal use of cream and sweet butter and advocate the serving of many articles of food, like man-houses, sweetbreads, calf's brains, and so on, which have heretofore been looked upon as having little food value, and thereby increase the value of the products of the farm.

Wall-papers this spring are all that spring wall-papers ought to be—light and bright and blossoming, says Harper's

Bazar. Stripes and garlands seem to be a popular pattern, though big bouquets and prim little nosegays scattered here and there without any apparent design are also to be seen. The background is generally white or cream-colored, against which the flowers, either of showy or delicate tints, appear to good advantage. Hydrangeas, geraniums, fuchsias, verbenas, and other old-fashioned and altogether spectacular blossoms are in highest favor.

But few of the once fashionable glazed effects appear, and gilt almost not at all. The idea seems to be to make all wall-coverings just as artistic as possible. Cretonnes reflect the spirit of the papers being light in tone, gay in color, and much given to floral designs.

Miss S. Maria Elliott lecturing on "The Chemistry of Stains" at the School of Housekeeping of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union, said, as reported in the Transcript, "The chief cause of all uncleanliness in the house is dust, and it, with grease, steam and smoke make dust mixtures. There are, however, other deposits, caused by the action of moisture and the oxygen in the air, by acids, and other chemical substances. When these are deposited, or caused by chemical action on metals, we give to the dirt or film, the name of tarnish. Most of these chemical compounds are insoluble in water, but soluble in other liquids. In the removal of such deposits, such methods and materials should be chosen as shall accomplish the desired end in the shortest time with the least expenditure of energy, without harm to the worker, and shall give the greatest permanence in results."

"Iron and steel are sources of much trouble for the housekeeper. Sinks and stoves would be free from rust if rubbed often with oil. Kerosene would do, but linseed, cotton seed, or olive oil is better because heavier. If a sink be rough, it should be scrubbed with pumice, emery or even sandpaper. If iron and steel utensils are to be left any length of time a coating of vasoline will protect them. Knives should be wrapped separately in oiled paper. When iron-rust has eaten in deep, a drop of muriatic acid may be dropped on it and the article washed thoroughly afterward in ammonia water, to neutralize the effect of any acid that may be left. Very greasy tins can be cleaned by boiling them in washing soda and water or wood ashes. They never should be scoured with coarse mineral soap. Whiting is safe."

Kerosene cleans zinc nicely, and with hard rubbing will give a fine polish, leaving a surface more durable than if it were produced by acids. Zinc-lined bath tubs can be kept clean and bright without scratches by the use of ammonia and whiting. This should be applied, a little at a time, and each spot finished separately; or, the whole tub may be covered with the whiting cream and the ammonia allowed to evaporate. Then by rubbing the dry whiting off with a flannel cloth, the polish appears. After that the tub ought to be rinsed with boiling water and wiped dry, the waste-pipe flushed to carry off any powder that might be left. Lastly, go over all the surface with a dry chambray."

A safe combination for white polish is rosin, stone and oil. Pipes, faucets, knobs, andirons, etc., will need less frequent polishing if they are gone over once in a while with kerosene. Lacquered surfaces having been burnished, should never be scoured; kerosene will keep them clean. Anything having a touch of sulphur about it will tarnish silver. Bad drainage and ventilation show on silver. If silver is washed in greasy water, imperfectly dried with a dirty cloth, and much handled, it will never be clean nor look well. It should be rinsed in hot water, touched with the bare hands as little as possible, and rubbed with whiting. That was good enough for the solid silverware of our grandmother's days. Common salt will remove the spots made by eggs. It should be put on before the silver is wet. Unbleached cotton bags should be made to hold silver.

Aluminum does tarnish, although dealers seem to believe it will not. Care must be taken that ammonia does not get on oxidized silver, else green salts of copper will be formed. Ammonia is better for windows than soap, as it leaves no film. No acids should be used on marble. Boiling hot vinegar is excellent for cleaning bronzes."

It is said that an Englishman once laughed at a Scotchman for eating oats and told him that the English fed the oats to their horses, says the Indiana Farmer. The Scotchman asked him where he could find finer horses than the English produced or finer men than the Scotch.

No intelligent person, who has the care of live stock, questions the value of oats as feed and if good for animals why not good for humans since we are only animals of a higher grade, one of the proofs consisting in the fact that we must depend for our sustenance upon much that animals of a lower grade do.

The most common method of using oatmeal is in the preparation of mush, which is very good of course, with sugar and cream, with perhaps some jelly added; but unless one begins a meal on this one, is apt to eat too little of it because hunger is satisfied before coming to the oatmeal.

This leads one to seek a variety in its preparation, something not so easily accomplished with oatmeal as it is brought from the market. Since I have owned a hand grist mill I have re-ground oatmeal which makes an oat flour from which I have produced a variety of dishes.

First, I made pancakes of it which to my taste excel anything of the kind I ever ate. To three cups of the flour I put a teaspoon heaping full, more or less according to the coarseness of the buttermilk, of soda, a little salt and make a thin batter by adding buttermilk; so I put a teaspoon level full of baking powder to each cup of flour and mix with sweet milk. Where there is no milk to be had water will do with baking powder.

Oatmeal ginger snaps can be made by adding some ginger and cinnamon to a dough made as for crackers and then working in dry granulated sugar after the dough has been made.

MRS. PINKHAM TALKS ABOUT "CHANGE OF LIFE."

Women are Urged to Prepare for this Wonderful Revolution in the Economy of Their Life Blood.—Mrs. Watson Tells How She Was Helped.



At no time is woman more liable to physical and mental dangers with hours of suffering than at the "Turn of Life." The great want in woman's system is ability to properly adjust itself to the new conditions. The outlet, monthly, of blood is now being diminished and carried into the body for the supply food of its later years.

Daughters, you can now to some extent repay your mother's early care. She must be spared every possible exertion. You must help her bear her burdens and anxieties. This critical time safely over, she will return to renewed health and happiness. That so many women fail to anticipate this change thus happily, is owing not merely to lack of care, but to ignorance. There is, however, no excuse for ignorance when experienced advice can be yours free of all cost. Write to Mrs. Pinkham, at Lynn, Mass., she has helped great numbers of women successfully through the Change of Life, and she will help you.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is the best tonic for uterine changes. It works harmoniously upon all these overworked organs, invigorates the body and drives off the blues.

Read this letter from Mrs. DELLA WATSON, 524 West 5th St., Cincinnati, Ohio.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I have been using Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for some time during the change of life, and it has been a savior of life unto me. I can cheerfully recommend your medicine to all women, and I know it will give permanent relief. I would be glad to relate my experience to any sufferer."

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“You’re road blocking us in an hour,” said the tearful Providence, M.J.s,” mother said, “but I don’t mind helping you this once.”

Mother always says “this once” about kind things she has done every day in the past, and will do every day in the future; but she seems to think that the expression protects her from the well-founded charge of over-indulgence.

So Uncle James and Miss Stubbs came to stay with us. My uncle arrived first; and as he sat with mother and me in the morning-room, he asked: “Is anyone else staying with you, Jane?”

“Only Miss Stubbs,” replied mother, “and she arrives this afternoon. We met her at Lucerne, you know.”

company he gave her, and that for the first time since that bent-old woman who was up to her waist in the water by the outermost ledge. It was there that the Irish moss grew, and at low tide the woman could gather it. She thrust her arm down to the shoulder each time for her handful of moss. She was wet, sodden wet, save for a small place across her back. She had a man's straw hat fastened by a small rope tightly under her chin. Her face looked a hundred years old, it was in truth seventy—old, seamed and leathery; and it was a face you loved to look at.

Every few moments she raised her head and put her dripping hand up over

Yond him, shining water. Where was Granny?

The child tried to scream but she felt as if in a nightmare, and could not make a sound.

Oh, there was something down between the rocks, on the far side of the ledge! It was there that Boss was going. And there was the mosser in his boat, putting his rake down just as he had been doing when the child had gone to sleep. For an instant she thought she was dreaming. But Boss was gone—and—yes—there was something among the rocks—it was Granny's hat sticking up, and it did not move.

Molly tried again to scream, and it

Set out new shade and blossom trees,
And let the soul, once froze and hard,
Sprout crocuses of new ideas.
Yes, clean yer house, an' clean yer shed,
An' clean yer barn in every part;
But brush the cobwebs from yer head,
An' sweep the snowbanks from yer heart!
—W. S. Foster.

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idea leads to house; plenty shrubby, Barberry and cupola) 53x47, 2-story s. 1st 30x18, terrace and porch house 18x26, one porch, 1 water 5x20, two others 8x10, another well for storage of tools, etc. 10x38. Fine cold water of water, small apple orchard bearing well, another of young trees just beginning to bear, buildings on an elevation 30 ft. higher than street. For heating 8 hours heat cattle and 2 horses. Price \$650.00 clear and clear, one third can remain if desired.

SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS made to anyone buying this 40 acre farm, 25 miles from Boston, and 10 miles from the city, for growing vegetables and fruits they will grow, thus assured a suitably cheap building site. For heating, buildings are located on high land, supplied with cold spring water and consist of a large brick house, 2-story red cedar, built 1880, 2 1/2 stories, 20x30, 1 1/2 mile to churches, stores and wagon road, a suitably cheap building site, and road, and surrounded by grand old elms and walnut trees. Eleven barrels of nuts taken from trees on the farm, and a small amount of maple wood neighborhood. Price \$2200.

Ice house, extra fine cellar under barn, grand old house 13 or 14 rooms, nice shade, sells up to 2500 lbs. good butter on main road, good market place at door, a business of 2,600 to 3,000 chicks every year, and now kept up. Will sell with or without stock (some nice choice stock if one wishes). Price will be right, owner desiring to change affords some an excellent opportunity, personally inspected.

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